

MISSISSINEWA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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July 23, 2020

This week our Mississinewa School Board passed the MCS Reopening Plan for the 2020-21 school year. We have posted on our website an updated version as of July 23, 2020. Please understand that this is a fluid document because this pandemic is an ever changing situation. Changes will be made as necessary to meet updated guidelines and circumstances and those updates will continue to be posted on the website.

Yesterday a significant change occurred with the new executive order issued by our Governor that face masks are required in public places. We have tentatively updated our Reopening Plan to reflect this requirement. The order requires that all students in grades 3-12 must wear a mask at school. In addition, all staff will wear a mask at school. Students in grades below the 3rd grade are strongly encouraged to wear a mask. All students will be required to wear a mask in the nurse's station. All students will be required to wear a mask on the school bus.

There is discussion with the Governor's office and the DOE about the question as to whether masks are required at all times within the classroom. The DOE's interpretation at this time is that with teacher approval, students may remove the mask in class when physical distancing is established and students are all facing in the same direction. If this interpretation changes, we will keep you informed.

The school district has purchased a cloth mask for every student and staff member, and the masks will be distributed at the beginning of school. Providing a mask from home for your student is encouraged.

We also emailed an updated 20-21 School Calendar. The two-hour delay previously scheduled for the first day of school on Wednesday, August 5, has been moved to Friday, August 7th. With the change to block scheduling in the middle and high school this year, we did not want to confuse the first day schedule for students with a delayed start. Consequently, we will have a two-hour delay on Friday, August 7, to allow for additional time for organization and professional development for our staff.

In addition, we have provided you the Continuous Learning Plans (Virtual Learning Plans) for the 2020-21 school year. We have emailed you this plan and it has been posted on the school website. If you have any questions about the Reopening Plan, the change in the school calendar, the full-time Continuous Learning Plan (Virtual Learning Plan) or about face masks, then please call your building office.

Finally, if you have not already done so, please register for this coming school year and let your school know whether your student will be a full-time “in person” student or a full-time “virtual” student.

It is vitally important that students and parents communicate with their building office regarding whether their student(s) plans to be “In Person” learners or “Virtual” learners. We are hard at work drafting student and teacher schedules. Students who change at the last minute may not receive all of the course offerings that they previously requested. Completing the survey and online registration provides very important information that we need from every student and family. If we have not heard from you by Thursday, July 30, then we will schedule your student as an “in person” student. All decisions about whether to attend school either “in person” or all “virtual” should be made no later than Friday, July 31. It is expected that decisions regarding students being in person or virtual in their education be made on a grading period (9 weeks) basis. The school cannot guarantee changes requested after the grading period begins.

Remember to practice physical distancing and wear a mask in public places. We wish you the very best in staying healthy and safe!

Thank You

Tab McKenzie
Superintendent